



The Second Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival is off to a resounding start!

On Thursday evening, the Palm Beach Ballroom of the Wyndham Resort, Spa & Casino welcomed over 400 discerning diners that know a great deal when it comes along. The first night of the Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival II brought lovers of fine cuisine combined with vintage wines to chat, taste, and sip the night away, while the hallways around the ballroom provided a feast for the eyes.

Those that are interested in the finer things in life not only had the opportunity to indulge the senses of taste, smell and sight, they also were able to talk to the accomplished artists that produced the works of art that will be auctioned off on Saturday night during the champagne dinner.

During a press conference earlier in the day, representatives of schools from around the island received the art supplies that the proceeds from last year's art auction provided. Stan Kuiperi, teacher and noted artist awarded a varied selection of media to the Kukwisa School in Pos Chikito, Fatima College in Dakota, Felipito Tromp in Noord, and the Pieter Boer School of San Nicholas. The proceeds from this year's auction will result in more supplies for more schools around Aruba.

Thursday night was also a night to meet the celebrity chef that will produce the Piece de Resistance dinner on Saturday night, Michal Cressotti of Sushi Samba, NYC. His mission, and he has decided to accept it, is to devise five fabulous courses to compliment the collection of fine champagnes that will be the crowning glory of the meal. It will begin at 7 P.M. in the ballroom and each course will be perfectly paired with a Dom Perignon Brut, a Moet Chandon Nectar Imperial, Moet Chandon Rose, Moet Chandon Brut, or a Moet Chandon Demi Sec. The cost of the dinner will also include a prime seat to the Earth, Wind and Fire tribute from Venezuelan band EA. Tickets are available in the lobby of the Wyndham, for the dinner and concert or the concert alone, which is \$20. There is no charge to admire the beautiful art to be found in the halls, nor for the art auction, conducted by professional auctioneer Kenneth Faustin that promises to be very entertaining.

Those attending the Thursday night AGA (Aruba Gastronomic Association) bash dined on risotto from Hostaria D'a Vittorio, scallops and duck breast from Chez Mathilde, the famous sea food chowder of Ventanas Del Mar, and Spicy Tuna from Aqua Grill. Meat lovers enjoyed Japanese Pork from Le Dome and from the Wyndham's own kitchens Flat Iron Steak Stuffed with Whole Shrimp. In the opinion of many, this was definitely worth a second and third trip back to the carving station!

There is still a chance to get in on one of the most exciting events the island has to offer, great food, fine wines, and good company is what many consider "The Sweet Life," and after Thursday night's extravaganza, we can only say "How sweet it is!"